

IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A writing implement comprising:

a body having an opening through which a writing tip passes along a longitudinal direction, and a slot extending approximately along the longitudinal direction;
a support on which the writing tip is mounted, said support being placed inside said body;

a strip comprising a first portion fixed to said support, a central portion and an end portion guided along a curved path, said strip being flexible and capable of being moved between two positions, namely a writing position in which said strip gives access to the opening and a stowing position in which said strip closes off the opening; and

a button connected to said support, said button being capable of being moved along the slot between a distal position relative to the opening, for which said support and said strip are in the stowing position, and a proximal position relative to the opening, for which said support and said strip are in the writing position.

12. (New) A writing implement comprising:

a body having an opening through which a writing tip passes along a longitudinal direction, and a slot extending approximately along the longitudinal direction;
a support on which the writing tip is mounted, said support being placed inside said body;

a strip comprising a first portion fixed to said support, a central portion and an end portion guided along a curved path, said strip being flexible and capable of being moved between two positions, namely a writing position in which said strip gives access to the opening and a stowing position in which said strip closes off the opening; and

a button connected to said support, said button being capable of being moved along the slot between a distal position relative to the opening, for which said support and said strip are in the stowing position, and a proximal position relative to the opening, for which said support and said strip are in the writing position,

wherein said body includes a lower face and an upper face connected together by at least one lateral face having a small height so as to produce a writing implement having a substantially flat shape, and

wherein the slot is made in one of the upper and lower faces, and the opening is made in the lateral face along which the end portion of said strip moves between the writing position and the stowing position.

13. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein said button is connected to said support by a lug passing through the slot, the lug being fixed by a tongue perpendicular to the first portion of said strip.

14. (New) The writing implement according to claim 13, wherein the lug, the tongue and said strip comprise a unitary member.

15. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein the upper and lower faces are substantially oval.

16. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein said button includes a surface facing said body that extends from the lug over a length suitable for entirely covering the slot in the stowing position.

17. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein said support butts against the internal wall of said body during its displacement in the writing position.

18. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein the end portion of said strip possesses an oblong window which, in the writing position, is positioned so as to face the opening for the passage of the writing tip.

19. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein the first portion of said strip is curved generally in the form of a U, the translation of said button causing a displacement of the first portion of said strip in the same direction, and a displacement of the end portion of said strip in the opposite direction.

20. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein the first portion of said strip is joined to the central portion at an angle, the translation of the first portion and the displacement of the central portion and of the end portion being in the same direction.

21. (New) The writing implement according to claim 12, wherein the writing tip includes a felt tip.

22. (New) A writing implement comprising:

- a body having an opening, through which a writing tip passes along a longitudinal direction, and a slot extending approximately along the longitudinal direction;
- a support on which the writing tip is mounted, said support being placed inside said body,
- a strip comprising a first portion fixed to said support, a central portion and an end portion guided along a curved path, said strip being flexible and capable of being moved between two positions, namely a writing position in which said strip gives access to the opening and a stowing position in which said strip closes off the opening; and
- a button connected to said support, said button being capable of being moved along the slot between a distal position relative to the opening, for which said support and said strip are in the stowing position, and a proximal position relative to the opening, for which said support and said strip are in the writing position,

wherein said body includes a lower face and an upper face connected together by at least one lateral face having a small height so as to produce a writing implement having a substantially flat shape,

wherein the slot is made in one of the upper and lower faces, and the opening is made in the lateral face along which the end portion of said strip moves between the writing position and the stowing position, and

wherein the end portion of said strip possesses an oblong window which, in the writing position, is positioned so as to face the opening for the passage of the writing tip.